

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN

NORTH HALL

MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

April 30, 1966

Mr. George Carver, Jr.
Office of National Estimates
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, Virginia

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Dear Mr. Carver:

I am writing to compliment you on the two Vietnam articles which appeared in Foreign Affairs. Your command of the salient historical, cultural and political facts, and your sensitivity to their meaning and inter-relationship in the present contest added a new dimension to the public (and governmental) discussion. I'm glad to know that there are people inside the government with this perspective, sensitivity and realism. Regretably, they seem conspicuously lacking in the academic community.

As it happens, during my stay in Wahington I have become quite interested (isn't everyone) in Vietnamese affairs. In particular, I've become attuned to the fact that much of U.S. economic policy in Vietnam seems either self-defeating or unproductive. There seems to be a critical information and analysis gap concerning the groups and forces that actually shape economic rhythms in Vietnam. There appears to be little information about the identity of the economic elites, the internal functioning of the Chinese community and the operation and vulnerabilities of the orderly and important parallel markets in currencies and commodities. This lack of knowledge severely limits the range of economic policy alternatives considered within the U.S. government and imposes often unseen constraints on the effectiveness of anti-inflationary and other policies currently under consideration.

In June I shall join the RAND Corporation as a Resident Consultant. Although the major portion of my time will be devoted to Latin American politics and U.S. economic assistance, I would like to at least graze some of the above questions in the more substantive manner which will be possible under RAND's auspices.

Should you have some time available between now and May 22, I would enjoy meeting with you and talking over what may be of common interest.

Sincerely,

Constantine Menges

Constantine C. Menges
Assistant Professor

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